



ALEXANDRIA.

TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 2.

EX PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS is opposed to prohibitory laws, for the reason that the world is governed too much. He couldn't have a better reason. To people born and reared under free institutions, it seems provokingly absurd that they cannot drink a glass of beer, or wine, or liquor, unless by permission of the authorities of the community in which they live. If a man's drink can be governed by other people, so can his food be, and so can any thing else which heretofore has been governed entirely by himself. The utmost extent of the law's restriction upon a man's personal liberty should be to prevent him from injuring or incommoding others. As drunken men do either injure or incommodate others, they should be punished, severely if necessary; but because they render themselves justly liable to punishment, is surely no reason why all the well-behaved people of the community in which they reside should be put to inconvenience, and be deprived of what the world has used since the commencement of recorded time.

When the democratic State convention re-endorses, as it probably will, the Riddleberger bill, though the U. S. Supreme Court has practically decided the provisions of that bill null and void, it should be bold enough to avow its support of repudiation, and to state that the representatives of the foreign creditors recently in Richmond for the purpose of compromising the State debt, agreed to reduce the interest on the consols from 6 to 3 per cent., that on the ten forties from 4 to 2 1/2 per cent., to accept 50 cents on the dollar for all past due coupons the State might choose to redeem, and to fund the remainder in new 3 per cent. bonds at 75 cents on the dollar, to accept 75 cents on the dollar of consols and 63 cents on the dollar of ten forties, and finally to surrender \$160,000 in interest and \$8,000,000 of the principal of the debt, and that no creditors, with the highest court in the land, ever offered debtors better or easier terms.

THE WASHINGTON *Republican* says that, "with full knowledge that the negro vote was practically solidly republican and would remain so, it suggested that the democrats of the South seek a division of that vote." And, what is no less strange, it seems angry with the Southern democrats because their efforts to effect a division of the negro vote failed, though it confesses it knew beforehand that such would be the case. The *Republican's* suggestion, and its avowed knowledge, naturally engender the idea that the object of the former was to induce the Southern whites to divide, so that with the solid negro vote added to the republican half, the latter could achieve an easy victory. But such an idea is an imputation of the *Republican's* understanding, or else shows that that paper has a ridiculously poor opinion of that of the white men of the Southern States, for in vain is the net spread in sight of the bird.

A DISPATCH from Brockton, Mass., says hundreds of the knights of labor there are leaving the organization, the cause of the dissatisfaction being the manner in which the officers have expended the money entrusted to their care. Nothing is more conducive to dissatisfaction among men whose hard earned money supports an organization, than for them to see other men, who don't work, living luxuriously on that money, and spending it as though it belonged to them, and was collected for their own individual benefit. Then, too, the system of assessments is naturally destructive. It even breaks up clubs composed of rich men. How can it be otherwise with organizations of poor men, to whom a lapse in three or four payments will create a debt they can ill afford to settle?

THE INVESTIGATION of the affairs of the Central Pacific Railroad Company by the Pacific railroad commission demonstrates the fact that enormous sums of money were used as bribes to Congressmen for legislation that benefited that corporation. In the earlier and better days of the republic the mere suspicion of such a thing would have produced intense excitement throughout the entire country; but now the established fact doesn't rise to the importance even of a nine days' wonder. But times change, and men change with them, and in nearly all cases the change is for the worse. The robbers certainly had a good time when the republican sway was complete.

MAINE is a prohibitory State and Bangor is a prohibitory city, and yet, though the latter has a small population, it has ninety bar rooms doing open business. It is just as impossible to prevent people from drinking liquor when they want to drink it, as it is to make a horse drink water when he doesn't want to drink it. Prohibitory laws are, and from the necessity of the case must be, as null and void as is the Riddleberger bill.

The Season for September has been received from the International News Company, 31 Beekman street, New York. It contains all the latest fashion news.

Leonidas Milton, the Bedford county murderer, was arrested at the rolling mill, near Lynchburg, yesterday morning, and taken to Liberty, where he was lodged in jail.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Correspondence of the Alex. Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 2, 1887.

The President remained at his country residence to-day, so as to avoid boring visitors, among whom are some U. S. Senators who seem to be under the delusion that if in the city it is a part of their duty to call upon him every day.

The latest rumor about the crookedness of the District of Columbia commissioners is that the horse that was bought for one of them out of the District fund belonged to Secretary Whitney, was a very valuable one, that the price paid for it would not have paid in the market for one of its legs, and that the commissioner got it as a quid pro quo.

Mr. Gould's denial of the Chinese telegraphic report that he is interested with Count Mikiewicz and others in the establishment of an immense bank in China, does not seem to have raised a doubt here among the Count's friends about his reported success in the telephonic business.

A democratic politician from New York, here to-day, says that unless the democrats nominate Governor Hill for President next year, the labor party will assuredly nominate a Presidential candidate, and in New York State alone will give him two hundred thousand votes.

W. H. Nelson, of Alexandria, had to-day a patent issued to him for a saw setter.

A resident of Utah, in the city to-day, says that though the Mormons and the Gentile democrats there are opposed to each other on most things, on the admission of the Territory into the Union as a State they are united, each hoping to get the advantage of the other after admission.

A gentleman from the lower Potomac now here says the farmers in all that region of country would consider themselves blessed if they were in receipt of as much money as ordinary laborers in the cities get for wages. He says the people there were never poorer than they are to-day, and, worse still, that there is no better outlook for them. He says that though they raise less grain, vegetables, fruit, dairy products and stock than formerly, and catch fewer fish, they net so little by sending such articles to market that they deem it hardly worth while to do so.

Harvey, the forger, will leave next week for the Albany penitentiary, where his case is likely to be subject to constant outrage. It has now been definitely determined that he was not only never a democrat or even a mugwump, but that he always was an avowed, ultra and offensive republican, and never pretended to be any thing else, and that his appointment was made solely upon social grounds. Office could not be conferred for party service, but could be for social reasons. And of such is civil service reform.

It is said in railroad circles here that the recent arrangement by which the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has agreed to run fast Southern freight trains will inflict a loss on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, over which the Pennsylvania Railroad has heretofore done most of its Southern business.

Mr. Schuyler Duryee, the republican chief clerk of the patent office, was not removed, as stated in this correspondence at the time, but resigned of his own free will.

Affairs in Louisiana County.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

LOUISIANA, August 1, 1887.—The Disciples' Co-operation meeting continues here on Wednesday, August 3d.

There are four church buildings here—Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal and Disciples. The Presbyterians have no house of worship of their own, but they have secured the services of Rev. Mr. Little, of Gordonsville, who preaches once a month in the Methodist Church.

The weather continues hot and sultry. A light rain is falling to-day.

Miss Mary Allen, of St. Mary's Parish, La., is spending the summer at this place. It is a source of general regret to the people of this community that Dr. Joe Winston and wife have decided to leave Louisiana and go to Wayneboro, Va.

Snake bites.—The snake-bite season has arrived and two cases are reported. The first is that of Jonathan W. Butz, of Reading, Pa., who was bitten on Monday by his pet rattlesnake. He is being treated by an old snake doctor, who has given him nothing but whiskey in large doses and who "paw-wows" over him. As the injured man is young and of strong constitution, he expects him to recover. The affected part has been neither cut out nor cauterized. Butz places entire confidence in "paw-wowing," and says "if necessary he'll die game."

The other victim is Michael E. Bowker, of Southampton, N. J., who was bitten by an immense rattlesnake on Tuesday. He shook the snake off and started on a run, sucking the blood from the wound as he ran. He kept on for over a mile when he found Dr. Reeves, of Medford, who cut out the flesh about the wound on Mr. Bowker's hand, and then started with him for Medford. On reaching that place he drank a quart of real old apple jack. This had the desired effect, and completely counteracted the effects of the poison.

Succumbs to the Pope.—A curious scene was witnessed the other day at the Vatican. M. Leo Taxis, whose real name is Jozand, formerly wrote some of the most "anti clerical" works ever printed. According to his own account, while composing a diatribe against Joan of Arc he had to refer to the history of her trial and condemnation, and was so struck with the angelic character of the heroine that he felt himself suddenly converted to the very faith he was abusing. He proceeded instantly to Rome, to implore the Pope's forgiveness and blessing. His holiness at once granted him a private audience, which lasted half an hour, during which he wept at the feet of the Holy Father. At length the Pope consented to give him his blessing on the condition that in his future works he would labor to undo all the harm he had done to the Catholic Church. M. Leo Taxis promised he would do his best, and departed. Before leaving, however, he had to make the piquant confession that he had not yet been able to convert his wife, who remained a hardened atheist.—*Pull Mall Gazette*.

A LION SKINS OFF A MAN'S HEAD.—Not a week passes without some horrible accident in a menagerie. On July 6th, a lion tamer named Aspy, who was making his beasts perform before a large crowd at the fair of Bourges, was suddenly knocked down by a blow from the paw of one of the animals. Half of the unfortunate man's skull was sundered off almost instantaneously by the terrible brute, and his spinal column was cracked in two as though it had been a dry twig. This is the most ghastly of any of the menagerie accidents which have occurred for a long time, either in Paris or in the provinces. It is quite probable, however, that Paris may yet be startled by a similar atrocity if amateur lion tamers or hysterical females be allowed to enter the dens of wild beasts. The experiments on the hypnotized woman who entered the cage of the Police Berceuse have already been detailed; but they were eclipsed yesterday by the performance of a demagogue, who actually entered one of the cages in M. 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